

MARCH 2009



The LaSallian

GENERAL ELECTION SPECIAL



Editor's Note

The notion for change, power, and enjoyment of student's rights are just but considerable part of the elections in the University. Similar to the scenario in the streets of EDSA and Mendiola, the clamour for good governance inside the school grounds is always raised. The groups of lemons and oranges have once again persuaded the students that they have the capacity to address the typical problem of a Lasallian: apathy.

In this year's General Elections Special, we bring you the tools you need in choosing your bet.

First, we take a deeper look at the selection process of candidates. While it is noticeable that the well-practiced speeches of the candidates lure us during their campaigns, the aspiring Student Council officers also have hardships as they undergo rigorous training for their position.

Second, we are giving you a rundown of how the platforms of Tapat and Santugon changed through time. Are they really presenting the same old material to DLSU?

Third, we followed the campaign of each political party and account the joys and pains they have encountered. Their experiences showed that they are not exempted to the difficult world of politics.

Also, we provide you with accounts during the not-so-participated Miting de Avance last March 20. Lastly, candidate for the executive board as well as college assembly presidents square-off to the most pressing issue in the University.

I hope this will help you in choosing your candidates. We are becoming more mature through time. Let this Student Council General Elections give us all a glimpse of how we are going to vote for the 2010 National Elections.

Yours,

Creizzeile Suzette Francisco
University Editor

 **The LaSallian**

THE BASTION OF ISSUE-ORIENTED CRITICAL THINKING

24 MARCH 2009

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**I'M TOO GOOD
FOR
DRUGS
JUST SAY NO**



Promising Speeches

Miting de Avance 2009

Photos by Justin de Jesus and Jowell Mariano



Samantha Ang

61ST ENG LA REP, INDEPENDENT

"In the end it is not about red, or orange, it is not about yellow or blue, in the end it is about the green. It is about making our school a better place. Making our discipline something valuable. We are here because we want to make it better. No party, no politics... just heart."



Ron Semira

PRESIDENT, TAPAT

"Should we be putting ourselves in the center, should we be putting ourselves first habang sa labas ng De La Salle University maraming nagugutom, maraming walang matirhan, maraming hindi makapag-aral."



Vero Zamesa

CAP CLA, TAPAT

"Bilang mga estudyanteng Pilipino, responsibilidad nating makialam sa mga isyung panlipunan. We push for active participation dahil ang bawat lasalyano unang naging Pilipino."



Mikko Hizon

TREASURER, TAPAT

"Naniniwala ako hindi lang experience ang kailangan dito. Hindi lang experience ang nagsasabi ng kakayahan ng isang tao pero ang lawak ng kaalaman niya at ang kagustuhan niyang maglingkod sa kapwa niya estudyante."



Lorenz De Castro

CAP, SANTUGON

"Ako, ang inyong kapwa ko estudyante ngayon, ay umo-oo na mabigyan kayo ng totoong serbisyo. serbisyon na walang bahid ng pulitika. Serbisyo na kayo lamang g inisip. Isa itong sakripisyo para sa ating lahat. Isa itong sakripisyo para sa akin."



Aimee Chua

PRESIDENT, SANTUGON

"Ayaw ko na maranasan ng iba pang SC Officer ang karumihan sa loob ng student council. I have a vision, and I know I can deliver. Hindi importante kung ilang issues ang ibinabato ninyo sa akin at sa aking partido dahil alam ng De La Salle University kung ano ang katotohanan."



Vernon De Guzman

VP ACTIVITIES, SANTUGON

"I will creatively address the needs of the students. Whatever I am, it is the character that truly counts and the leadership that I can give you. It is time for the rebirth of the ideal Student Council."



Pierre Lim

TREASURER, SANTUGON

"When I celebrated my birthday last year, a professor gave me a letter which stated "at the very young age, you've embodied the charisma of our founder."

Gridlock

By Arik Aaron Abu and Audrey Virgula

The Miting de Avance for De La Salle University Student Council (SC) General Elections 2009 last March 20 the Amphitheatre became the channel of both parties to exhibit their dependability on pressing issues. Partisanship maturity was also demonstrated despite inevitable cases of promotion at the expense of the other party.

New faces, same routine. This year’s miting de avance for the General Elections held last March 20 at the Amphitheatre was not much different from those of years past. It has almost become traditional to hear jeers from the candidates and heckles from the crowd in between a candidate’s synthesis of his or her platform.

A miting de avance will not be complete without its generous serving of candidates testing the limits of the opposing party. Tapat’s Business and Economics Assembly Presidentiable Ange Yapyuco, discussed what students can do for the impending economic crisis. “...and they say that it is too ambitious of us to [understand] these problems, and if these are the only reasons that they can think of, then CBE, I’ll look you in the eye and I’ll tell you that it is not enough!” Yapyuco adds.

Santugon Candidate CED College Assembly President Mau Bacierto says, “Gugustuhin pa ba natin na mamaliitin tayo? Kaya nga ang vision namin this school year is to bring out the leader in each individual. (Do we still want to be belittled? That is why our vision this school year is to bring out the leader in each individual.)”

Every once in a while opposing candidates may be virtually even when it comes to support. CLA College Assembly Presidentiable Lorenz de Castro (Santugon) and Vero Zamesa (Tapat) split their college’s support. Both were calling for greater participation of the students of CLA in social development. De Castro willed social reform through CLA students being at forefront of changing the nation, while Zamesa pushed for

pro-student projects and long-term programs with specific promises.

AC Cristobal, Tapat candidate for Science College Assembly President, lashed out at Santugon with her opening cry of “*Hindi lang tayo dapat tumugon sa tawag ng panabaon*, (We shouldn’t just respond to the call of the times),” in reference to Santugon’s timeless tagline. Completely supplemented with a war-ready stance, the Biology major was firm on the platform of her party.

In the same manner, Santugon candidate for Engineering College Assembly President Alex Narciso consumed his opportunity to rebut Tapat’s negative comments in the past few days against his platform. He plans to establish an online system for getting control numbers for adjustment in the College of Engineering. Consistently, the incumbent Legislative Assembly representative was assertive in his defense of his project, responding to Tapat, “*Kung hindi namin kayang gawin, sana hindi na lang namin nilagay sa plans of action namin*. (If we can’t do it, then we shouldn’t have we placed it in our plans of action).”

Executive Board confrontations

The Executive Board candidates were more intense in their war of words. Right from the speeches of the candidates for Treasurer, it was evident that the exchange of words would be heated.

Treasurer hopeful, Pierre Lim (Santugon), right from the beginning, placed a big weight on his advantage as a business student to be more fitting for the office. “My knowledge in economics, accounting, and financial matters has prepared me to face the challenges of being your Student Council Treasurer.” Conversely, Mikko Hizon (Tapat) countered this with his credible training from past Tapat treasurers. He further argued that more than the experience, the broadness of the



PHOTO BY JOWELL MARIANO



PHOTO BY JOSH GATCHALIAN

knowledge of a leader is essential for him to be effective in his position.

For the speeches of the Secretary, Mae Ong (Santugon) implored more on the emotion, saying that more than the experience and capability, her heart in strong in serving the student body. Cabe Aquino (Tapat), on the other hand, despite starting well faltered to a silence to for two minutes before continuing with her speech.

Gil Bautista (Santugon) delivered a straightforward speech. The Vice President for Operations and Communications hopeful highlighted his five-point agenda. He used past experiences to emphasize redefining quality physical services, efficient student services, effective communications channels, refined policies, and stronger external linkages. Tapat counter Chichi Tullao was able to bat it back with the declaration that such are not the only roles of the VP-OPEC rather the means of contributing to the bigger picture—nation building.

The focus of the Vice President for Activities speeches were very much contrasting. Santugon candidate Vernon de Guzman was honest in presenting his sentiments on running for the position, despite alleged assertions against him. Tapat candidate Kat Regalado simply established the power of her platform to suitably cater to the marginalized Lasallian community.

The speeches intensified when the candidates for Vice President for Academics took the stage. Nadia Ong (Santugon) established her podium as a Santugon leader and strengthened her plans of action through recalling her accomplishments. Tapat candidate Leah Villalon, to counter it, made her own recollection of the real roles of a vice president for academics.

But as close as the fight for lower positions could get, nothing could be as gridlocked as the

battle for Student Council Presidency. Santugon candidate Aimee Chua explicitly expressed her dispositions as an SC officer for five years. She condemned partisanship and bad politics in the Council and vowed that through her leadership, this will be changed. Tapat candidate Ron Semira, more than firmly instituting to gear for the truth in the SC. He elaborated further on the roles of a Lasallian as a part of the society existing outside the walls of the University. Sharing his vision, he emphasized the significance of the student body in nation building as the long-established legacy of the students and of his party.

A custom worth improving

This year’s Miting de Avance was a show of vision, platform, and politics. As expected, both Santugon and Tapat candidates were endlessly lauded by their campaign officers. This year has been another year for a fresh batch of promises from candidates to the student body—no doubt to be watched closely in the next year. In essence, the event can be described as a manifestation of political maturity for members of both parties.

As much as it has become traditional for the miting de avance to have candidates attacking one another aside from delivering passionate speeches, the low turnout of non-partisan observers has become common in recent years. The dwindling number of non-partisan observers could question the relevance of the activity. The miting de avance could be considered as the last chance for the candidates to communicate their respective platforms to voters.

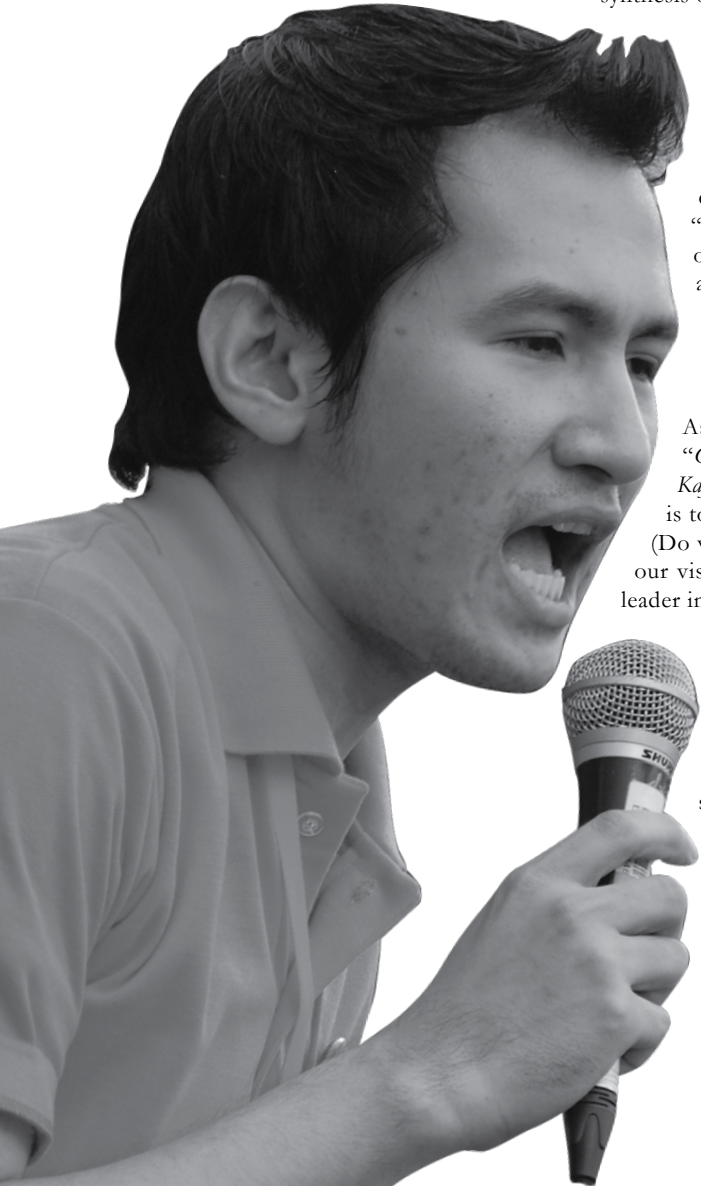


PHOTO BY JUSTIN DE JESUS



Stories behind the trail

By Carlito Reyes, Zamanta Legades, and Gerard Avelino

As we reach the end of this academic year by finishing school work, the political parties have been busy with their campaigns for the General Elections. Busy, might even be an understatement for what we have seen—from the running to the repeated speech deliveries to the strategizing for campaigns. These are the stories behind the campaign. Look closely for what is chronicled here are the experiences of your candidates while they are campaigning for your votes. This is an inside glimpse of what goes on in the trail.

Tapat

Day 1:

As we approached Tapat’s camp, the party’s president, Anil Ratanchandani, welcomed us with a smile and introduced us to some of the party’s candidates. Puzzled faces welcomed us with reserved smiles, not knowing why they saw unfamiliar faces on their campaign, until Anil explained why we were there.

The order of the day was to start answering the allegations the other party had about the University Student Government. “Before Santugon bashes, they must read the constitution of the USG first. You cannot just say that the SC will be less efficient just because you have less Executive Board members when the USG streamlines everything,” he explained passionately.

Off to one side, the EB candidates were practicing the speeches. Anil explained that they practiced their speeches during their free time. “Is it ‘ahr’ or ‘ah-wer’?” asked a meticulous Kat Regalado. The VP-Activities candidate was very particular about her pronunciation of “our.” Minutes later, the EB Governor, Jemo, entered and told them to go to Miguel building for their next campaign.

“I think it’s just right for us to allow you to come with us for transparency’s sake,” replied Ron Semira to our expression of gratitude for being allowed to join in their campaign. Transparent it is. So transparent that one gets to witness campaign bloopers first hand.

In their first campaign in a classroom of liberal arts majors, Leah Villalon let out a, “Fellow Engineers I am Leah Villalon your Student Council Vice-President for Academics.” Obviously, Leah held very close to her heart campaigning in her own college. Outside, Ron Semira halted his usual stretching ritual and banged his hands on the walls coupled with a silent laugh, his apparent recognition of Villalon’s blunder.

At the end of every day’s campaigns, Tapat convenes for its assessment. In these assessments they evaluate the positioning of its candidates over the other party. Day 1 did not meet the party’s expectations. A lot of small mistakes were made in their speeches and some candidates did not seem sincere enough to potential voters.

Present in their assessment was Jenn Lazo, SC Executive Secretary in 2007-2008. She shared that even political parties have their own superstitions. As Lazo stroked a Tapat flag, she said that Tapat candidates are scared of the flags carrying the party’s name. They believe that coing in contact with the flag is bad luck. She recalled running during her freshman year and the flag accidentally touching her. She ended up losing that

elections. Although some still win, it’s fun seeing some candidates trying their best to stay away from the flags.

Day 2:

In following the candidates around on their person-to-person campaigns for the day, we noticed that they never failed to iterate, “19 SC Presidents and seven Executive Board sweeps.” That is after they try to explain their GPOA’s like missionaries on the streets. They would try to highlight students that would listen to them their five key issues as candidates and their Executive Board’s thrusts.

As we left Gokongwei Building, an enthusiastic Mikko Hizon told us how it is usually harder for Tapat to have person-to-person campaigns in CCS. This is because Santugon has consistently won in that college. The relatively possible response of the CCS students put a noticeable confidence in the candidates’ voices.

From one campaign to the next, such is the rollercoaster of a candidate. One of the governors pointed the EB to another room in Miguel Building. But, as they were approaching the room with a Tapat governor holding the door, Santugon President Karyl Factora ran towards the room with her slate. For a few tense moments, the characteristic jockeying for position even as to who campaigns first could be seen in the passionate outcries from the Tapat candidates. But cooler heads prevailed. After all, it was all part of the campaign.

In the class of Atty. Emily Sanchez on Womens Rights, she asked them to entertain questions, which they gladly accepted. The students asked about the dress code and women’s status in the University. Atty. Sanchez asked what Tapat perceived as decent clothing. Ron answered that decency is subjective and what is important is to not hurt other’s sensibilities. Unsatisfied

with this answer, Atty. Sanchez pressed further. But the best the candidates could come up with was about obscene clothing and those prescribed by religion.

Day 3:

Candidates consider all sectors of the University in their campaign. Even questions from professors, even though they are not voters, are entertained.

Prof. Ivan Pineda required that the candidates in a normal conversational tone in contrast to their usual projected voices. After they explained their thrusts, Pineda told his class that he would award incentives to students who would ask questions that were interesting enough.

Pineda himself probed into the candidates with questions. He pointed out the feasibility questions for most of the offices. He also pointed out that voter’s education must be continual and not just done when the elections are near. In response, the EB candidates were able to respond at once that this is what they are currently doing and will continue to pursue with their current project “Boto Lasalyano.”

While answering a question about empowering the student body and the youth, Ron used Tapat’s “Just and Free Society” tagline. “*Eh pag nilabas mo na yung* Just and Free Society,’ how can I argue with that? (When you bring up the ‘Just and Free Society,’ how can I argue with that?),” quipped Pineda. His students accommodated this statement with mild laughs.

There are also moments that candidates will be asked questions they may not be comfortable with. In a CBE classroom, a student asked what Tapat’s edge was over Santugon. Ron replied, “We are not in the position to tell you what they have or not have but what we can tell you is what we can offer and amplify those efforts.”

Santugon

We met up with Santugon President Karyl Factora at the Animo Canteen at around 1pm. After introductions were made, we asked Karyl about what was new with Santugon’s campaign. They were more aggressive this year, she said, more issue-based. She also related that it was a challenge to plan for the campaign as Aimee Chua was in Singapore a few weeks before the campaign period. But this did not stop them from carrying out their plans for Santugon’s campaign.

Our next stop was L319, where we first watched the EB do their routine. They were all smiles as they entered the room one by one as their names were called. As they presented their platform the class was all giggles. Prof. Milette Zamora, the professor, seemed to be having a bit of fun with the candidates. She even mockingly threatened to take away Pierre Lim’s (Treasurer) 4.0 grade.

Upon leaving the room, we were all but swept of our feet, literally. The campaign team, flag bearer and all, rushed to the next classroom, in double time. The class was a tiny bit noisier than the last, and the strain seemed to be showing on the candidates’ diction. After all, around four hours of talking and rushing all over the school would take its toll on anyone.

Karyl, upon leaving, tried to keep the morale up. “Energy, guys!” she said as we rushed to L227 and then to Miguel Hall. The EB literally ran through a crowded SJ walk, much to the confusion of the rest of the 10-minute break commuters. They passed the CLA batch candidates, to which Karyl said an as if casual, “We’re going to Miguel,” maybe to avoid bumping into each other there.

Sweating, panting, and out of breath, the EB waited for the professor in M308 to allow them to

enter. In the meantime, they rushed to get water, wipe the perspiration off their brow, and remain calm and collected.

No Pain, No Gain

Santugon Presidentiable Aimee Chua describes that campaigning is tough work. “*Yung paa ko ang sakit na*. You have to run from one building to another, and then almost 12 hours *kami nag-cacampaign* a day. *Pero yung* emotions *medyo kaya pa namin*. So far, *okay kasi* I receive moral support from Santugon. (My feet hurt so much already. You have to run from one building to another, and then we campaign almost 12 hours a day. But the emotions we can take. So far it has been okay because I receive moral support from Santugon.)”

With all this hard work, comes sacrifice as well. “I’ve been cutting classes,” Santugon’s VP-Academics candidate Nadia Ong said. “I really don’t cut class and so next week *papasok ako, hindi ko alam yung* lesson. I took exams this week, *kasi hindi ako pinayagan magreschedule* and I know I did bad sa exams na yun. Call time *namin dito* is 6am. *Dala ko nga yung libro ko* everywhere we go *sa* campaign *kasi may test ako kaninang six, kaya ko siya dala*. *Para paglabas ng* room, *kahit* one page *lang yung mabasa ko*. (I really don’t cut class and so next week, I’ll go to class and I don’t know the lesson. I took exams this week because I wasn’t allowed to reschedule, and I know I did bad in those exams. Call time for us is 6am. I bring my book everywhere in the campaign so that at least I can read one page.)” Along with these major sacrifices comes the possibility of not winning. “*Andun na rin yung* you’re afraid to lose. I’ve ran already. (There is also the fact you’re afraid to lose,)” Nadia explains. “I don’t know

if this makes it easier or harder.” However, such a fear is not enough to bring her down completely. “*Siguro* one of the reasons *kung bakit* hopeful is that I feel I know this position better since I’ve been in the office this school year, so *alam ko na pano siya takbubin*. (I guess one of the reasons I am hopeful is that I feel I know this position better since I’ve been in the office this school year, so I know how to run it.),” she adds.

For Aimee, she says that what discourages her are the false accusations about them that they hear. She cited that some people think she brought back the dress code, she did not initiate the online Pahiram Libro, and even blamed her for the library fine. But such accusations do not stop her from believing in her capability as a leader. “*Grabe*, this year kasi *hindi talaga totoo at ang dami*. *Sige, okay lang*. *Bahala kaya*. *For sure, sa kamila nanggaling yun*.” (This year, they weren’t true and they were so many. Fine, it’s up to them. For sure, it came from them.)

Both fear their running mates losing more than an individual loss. Nadia describes that it hurts more if you win but your running mates lose. “You wouldn’t feel like a winner. You’ll just wish you lost instead. You’ve worked hard with these people. You’ve seen they deserve this position,” she explained.

All in a Day’s Work

No matter which party or candidate you will be voting for this week, both undergo the same amount of hard work and trials which come with vying for a spot in the Student Council. Let us not forget that these candidates are just like any of us on a normal school day, making extra sacrifices for the sake of student service during this time of the year.



The preparations and problems

By Angel Bombarda

In every General Elections, battle cries come from the University’s two political parties. Room-to-room and person-to-person campaigns are done and the credentials of each candidate are paraded in every campaign material they have. In the end though, the real challenge is adhering the call to vote. As DLSU’s Commission on Elections (Comelec) would put it: Stand for Change. Vote.

Comelec Vice-Chairperson Maria Corazon Baluyut said that they have been preparing for the GE since the 2nd Term of this academic year. Included in the preparation are volunteer recruitment, trainings, interviews, and selection of core volunteers. She added that they are also financially prepared as they have already solicited early on from DLSU- PUSO and the Student Council’s Office of the President.

Publicity and visibility are some aspects that Comelec Chairperson Jacob Lee would want to improve for their office. To address this, they have been training their core volunteers for intensified room-to-room campaigns to encourage students to vote—a first for Comelec. This year will also be different since they will have an official media partner: Green Giant. Their other means to publicize Comelec’s advocacy are posters and e-mail blasts. “As part of our campaign, we encourage our students to practice their right to vote. It’s simple, straight to the point and clear,” Lee emphasized.

The value of each vote unquestionable. “We as commissioners, that’s our vow to ourselves that what we want from our elections, more than anything, to be clean, honest and peaceful. We wouldn’t be exerting effort in inviting students to vote if we won’t consider their votes sacred,” Baluyut furthers. This honesty in the election is ensured because during counting, a college commissioner, Comelec volunteers as well representatives from both parties are present. According to Lee, it is a job requirement that they be responsible in all their actions so as not to defile the process itself.

Also in charge of screening, Comelec asked the candidates this year to give official transcript of records for their grades, and their flowcharts for the checking of number of units left in their respective degree program. Lee said that for questionable candi-

dates in terms of academic failures, the cases are forwarded to Dean of Student Affairs Voltaire Mistades. These candidates are evaluated again and are required to ask for permission and certification to run from their respective vice deans when they have exceeded more than 50 percent of the allowable failures in their courses.

Another notable policy that Comelec has to follow due to the modification in the Comelec Code pushed for by the Legislative Assembly is on the issue of disciplinary probation. For as long as a student is not under disciplinary probation in time for the campaign, the student can run regardless of the number of major offenses this student has committed. Lee hopes to work on changing this policy in the next Election Code revision. However, Comelec’s role is limited to reviews and recommendations. The final changes are still decided by the Legislative Assembly.

Comelec explains that voting is more of a responsibility and it is certainly not a trivial matter. “It’s a Lasallian experience to vote. We want the students to vote because we don’t want Lasallians to be apathetic especially with the upcoming national elections,” Baluyut concluded. Statistics show that voter turnout has been decreasing in recent years, but Comelec has an existing end goal—85 percent voter turnout in the GE.

The players in the field

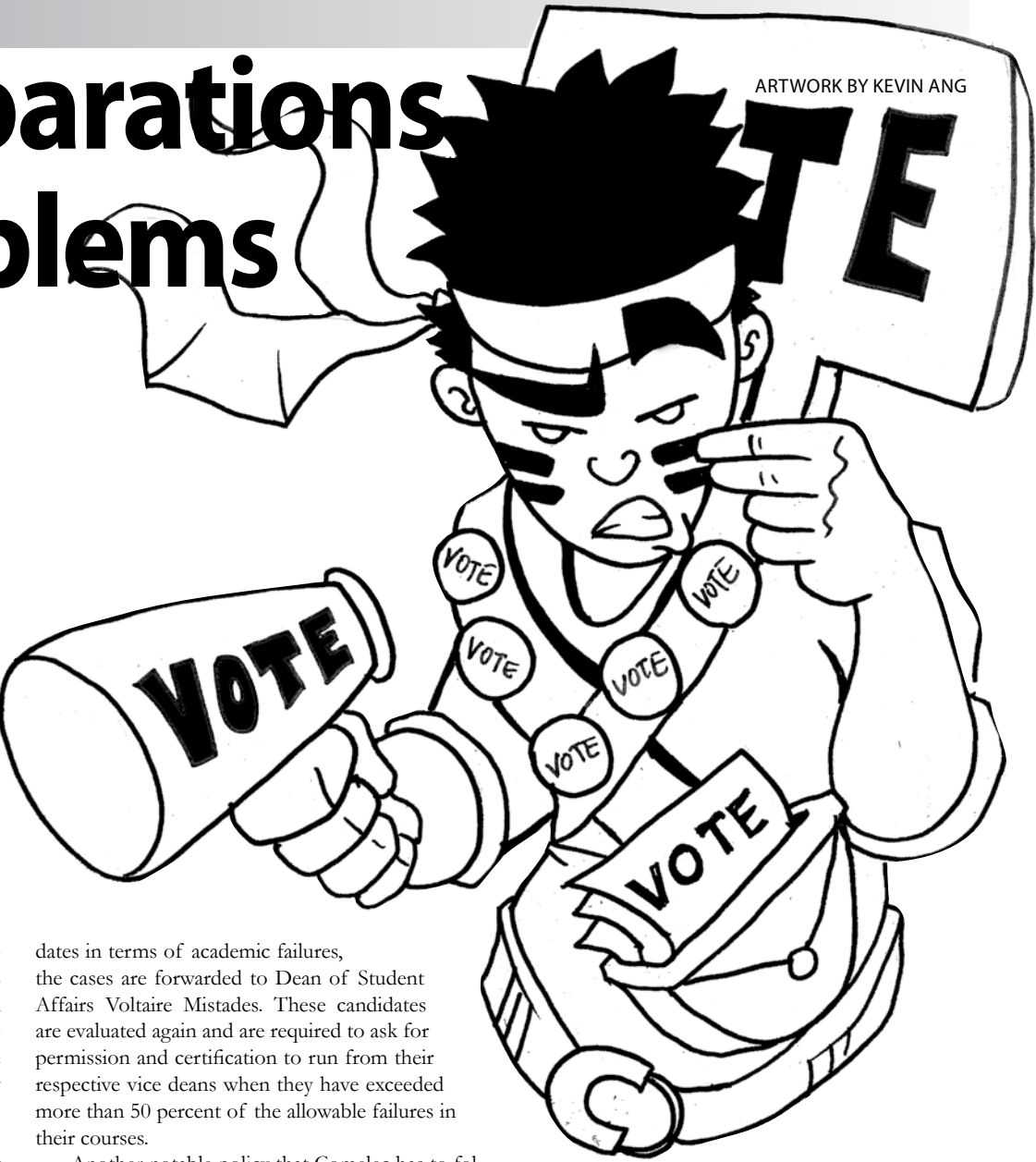
According to Al Idian, Santugon Sa Tawag ng Panahon Secretary General, he noticed that the strictness of Comelec varies every year. This could be attributed to having different commissioners and Comelec officers each year. This year, the number of violations during candidacy has been significantly

lower, he mentioned. “I think that’s saying something about the culture of politics in La Salle. I think we’ve moved forward from just pinpointing the loopholes of the campaign of the other party to something more responsible,” Idian stated.

He also observed that there are some things where he would like to see changes from the body that primary handles elections in the University. He cited the officers’ knowledge on the Comelec Code and the Memorandum of Agreement. “I personally think that the Comelec should be more authoritative because it regulates Santugon and Tapat, which are really influential in La Salle,” he shared. He concluded however by saying that the Comelec have been instrumental in regulating the campaigns.

Alyansang Tapat sa Lasalista President Anil Ratanchandani said that he believes Comelec is doing well in fulfilling its basic function of mediating with no bias to both parties. “The Comelec now is very reinforcing of the rules of the election,” he said. He also commended their patience and objectivity.

This year, Comelec conducted more room-to-room campaigns, encouraging the exercise of the right to vote. They are also encouraging students to simply vote abstain if they do not want to vote for any candidate. “At least you are heard,” they said in their campaigns.



Worthy of the vote?

A lot of decisions need to be made during election season, from political parties choosing candidates to field, candidates choosing positions to run for, what platforms to push for, what promises to make. But in the end it all comes down to the students’ vote. The question is, is it worth it?

Before we vote for the next batch of leaders to run the affairs of the student body, we must first evaluate the performance of the previous batch. Were any of the promises they made about improving student life realized? Is the student body any better because of them elected into position? Not only are these questions for students to think about, but that of our leaders as well.

Most especially if they are incumbent candidates running again for position. Whether they are deserving of the seat they are running for would depend on their performance this year. What have they shown of their potential throughout the school year? Are we given reasons to vote for them again?

Candidates running in the General Elections should realize that aside from the pressure put by competition, there is also the pressure put by the student body, whose votes they must garner.

Freshmen candidates must have it relatively less difficult though, compared to upperclassmen. Their stay in the University amounting to merely a year, they still have yet to prove what they can do. Upperclassmen on the other hand, have had more than a year prior to this year’s elections to show his/her fellow schoolmates what he/she is capable of, whether as an officer or a student. Failing to make the most out of those years might become a hindrance to the candidates in achieving their aspired position.

When you’ve been in the University long enough, you don’t have to know people personally to tell if they have the potential to be a leader. Come campaign

period and you find such students running for position, whether or not they’ve been a Student Council officer before doesn’t matter. It’s not difficult to spot a leader when you find one.

Take for example the classmate who assumes leadership in group projects and assignments. They delegate the tasks well and make an effort to ensure the ideas of all the members are considered. There is also the student whose reports are not only bullet versions of information from the textbook but originally insightful. These are the students who take their work seriously, not only for the grade but for the greater purpose of learning. They are the ones who know what needs to be done, and they do it well. Thus as early as in the classroom, they have already established their credibility as leaders.

But there are also candidates you might be surprised to find running. Somehow, there is difficulty recalling what they have done prior to this year’s elections to prove that they have what it takes to be leaders. This makes it relatively more difficult for upperclassmen running for position, especially if it is their first time.

Have they taken up any leadership roles, at least in the classroom? If ever, was the product of their leadership something of quality? Have they shown academic responsibility, for example by submitting their assignments on time and being punctual to class? Trivial as these matters may sound, they are valid points to consider in determining the candidate’s credibility. The kind of responsibility and effort they can offer to their fellow students, they must have first offered in their classes.

This also brings us to question the credibility of political parties in choosing potential leaders to

field. Given the difficulty of finding students who meet their criteria and are willing to run, which do they prioritize: the credibility of the candidate, or the completeness of the slate?

For example, a lot of credentials in GPOAs and SPOAs cite membership in clubs or organizations and participation in events. Sometimes these make up the majority of some candidates’ credentials, if not all. How are these indicative of a person’s capability to lead and take on responsibilities? They merely signify the candidate’s interests. Membership and participation have very little to do with management and leadership.

If the aspiring candidate does not have what it takes to handle the responsibilities that come with the position they are running for, why field them? An incomplete but credible slate is better than a complete, barely up-to-par one. Not only will this affect students’ perception of the political party, it affects their decision to vote as well.

For candidates whose work and service have made enough difference to be remembered, they have the advantage of having earned the students’ trust. These are the candidates who can look back and, from what they see, say with confidence that they are deserving of the position they are running for. They are worthy of our vote.

For those who have yet to prove what they can offer, they call to mind some clichés: “It’s never too late,” “There’s no time like now.” As part of the voting population, it is only natural for us to be skeptical. After all, we can always choose not to vote. If we are to do so we might as well know that our vote is worth the trouble.

AWARENESS

MAKES SENSE

CROSS THE STREET

WITH CAUTION

SA HIRAP

NG BUHAY

BAWAL

MANAKAWAN

BE WARY OF YOUR BELONGINGS

NO

SAKAY

PATRONIZE PEDICAB

DRIVERS WITH IDS

GIVEN BY THE

TASK FORCE SAFE SCHOOL

8 / The LaSallian General Election Special

Face Off

Tapat and Santugon executive committee candidates on the issues

By Crezzeile Suzette Francisco
with reports from Arik Aron Abu, Angelita Bombarda, Zamanta Legados,
Carmela Prado, Carlito Reyes, John Daniel Salonga, and Audrey Virgula
PHOTOS BY JURIC CANCIO AND JUSTIN DE JESUS

President



Aimee Chua

Another pressing issue that I would like to address aside from the 2010 National Elections is the Global Financial Crisis and its impact to us students. First impact is in terms of the fees that we are paying especially the tuition fees and even the canteen prices. What the office of the treasurer plan to do is to ensure that our fees are justifiable. It will also push for the lowest possible tuition fee increase for the school year. For the canteen prices, we will lobby for the subsidized canteen prices in the University.

Aside from the fees, another impact is the accessibility of Lasallian education since this global situation will result to more students having hard time paying their tuition. That is why the Office of the Treasurer and the Office of Vice President for Academics will continue the Achiever Scholar Program. The Office of the Treasurer will continue to generate scholarships through the Company Partnership with Student Scholars or Compass to look for companies who are willing to sponsor education of the students. But in return, the student should comply with all the requirements of the company.

Lasallians will also be affected in terms of finding their job. That is why we have to ensure with the Office of Counselling and Career Services (OCCS) that we will have enough companies attending the Job Expo and there are still many job opportunities available. We have to be more aggressive, not what we normally have in the University. It is also possible for us to go beyond the usual companies that attend the Job expo and even go international.

Q Other than the 2010 national Elections, what is the next most pressing national issue?



Ron Semira

When we lobbied for our platform, Lakas ng nagkakakisang Lasalyano, we identified six key issues. For CLA it is the decentralization in the government which will address corruption and bureaucracy. For COE, it is on the energy sector specifically on the opening of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. We are against the opening of BNPP because of the questions on where the fund will come from, sustainability issues, and the health risks involved. CBE is on economic crisis and the Philippines. CCS is the automation of the elections, for COS, it is still global warming. And CED, it is more on the different proposals on the Philippine Educational System. Each college should have an advocacy on the national issues. The Student Council should not be limited to one issue because there is a wide-range of competencies of the students. They all need to be tapped.

VP Academics

The office of VP for Academics already started its efforts on the Curriculum Review (CR) this year. Our plan was to coordinate with different CSO professional orgs and conduct Focus Group Discussions with their members. We will ask what they feel about their curriculum. Questions like “Do you feel that the majors you are taking are enough? That when you graduate, you’re fully equipped as a graduate of that particular course?”

We will also conduct surveys—the wider the reach, the better. We’ll ask if the courses are enough, are there any overlapping courses that can be combined to one, and if they think that some courses are not needed. A number of CCS students feel that it would be better if an Economics or Entrepreneurship class would be included in their curriculum. At some point, they would want to manage their own business related to computer science.

We asked the Vice chancellor for academics and learned that they conduct yearly CRs and compare it to other universities. What we feel our job as SC is really to concentrate on students’ concerns. What they feel, their sentiments on their own courses. So when they graduate, they will really feel they’re equipped.



Nadia Ong

Q Given limited resources and authority, how will you ensure that the Curriculum Review will be executed accordingly?



Leah Villalon

research and proper presentation to the Administration that we will be able to have them agree with our proposal.

Cradle was founded by Oliver To from Tapat, the Vice President for Academics (2005-2006). He was the VP-Academics when I was elected in the Legislative Assembly as the Legislative Assembly Representative when I was a frosh. Cradle is a branch of the VP-Academics; it focuses on the researching, analyzing and studying of the different curriculum of every course in DLSU. I believe that with proper research regarding what I want as the VP-Academics such as having electives across different Colleges and Disciplines, we will be able to present well to the Administration on why this is good for the student body. Because, it is with thorough

VP Activities

As your Vice President for Activities, I want the students to feel the activities and become holistically developed not just in one aspect but a balance of their academics, social, and community development. These activities will not just hone the students holistically but also address their interests and needs.

First in these activities is the college free day where the college will celebrate its achievements through collaboration of the students and the faculty. Second is to address the social and community development, as well as the nation-building aspect of activities. Environmental projects like plant-a-tree, save the marines, tree-planting, coastal clean-up, mangrove planting, and similar activities will foster community development in the area. It is in this aspect that students become holistically developed. The third is the preparation for the centennial celebration. I want to hype up the students and create an exciting feeling about the upcoming centenary. As early as now, we should already be preparing for these kinds of celebration.

To ensure participation in all these activities, I will create an advertising committee which is solely dedicated for the dissemination of such activities.



Vernon de Guzman

Q Name three priority activities for the next school year and why?



Kat Regalado

For my three priorities next year, the first one is community development: ensuring sustainable community development programs utilizing the core competencies of each colleges. We plan to establish good and sustainable community development programs like the one in Singalong, Manila. However, it is noticeable that not all colleges offered their services in that community service. I am hoping that the core competencies of each college will be maximized and the community service will be accessible to many.

The second one is an alternative job fair for Non-Government Organizations and cause-oriented groups. In the job fair by Office of Counseling and Career Services, CLA courses are not usually

tapped. By providing an alternative job fair, maybe it can open job opportunities not only to CLA but for those who may want to volunteer from other colleges.

The third one, this one is probably not a pioneering project but it is more of an intensified University Week celebration especially with only two years in the centenary. It will not only be week-long activities but it is more of programs that have been started as early as first term of the school year. It is more of activities that has a purpose and are relevant not only to the Lasallian community but also to the outside society as well.

VP OPEC

Q How can the external linkages of the SC be utilized?



Gil Bautista

As your Vice President for Operations and Communications, I have three points on how I will utilize the external linkages of the Student Council (SC). First, I will push for an active participation in Union of Catholic Student Councils (UCSC), not just by being an active member, but by asking other students as well to be part of UCSC. Hindi lang ako ang miyembro ng UCSC kundi pati ordinaryong estudyante (I am not the only member of UCSC, but also ordinary students) can join UCSC so that they'll be more informed as well. Second point is to lobby for a Coalition of Students Renting Dormitories and Establishments within or near the vicinity of La Salle. I want to pioneer that service program to clamor for these establishments to be fair in their service and ask for these establishments to give what is due to the students. I believe it is also part of external linkages of the SC and that I should promote that as well. *Hindi lang puro bumibili ang mga estudyante ng La Salle sa mga establishments na 'to. Kailangan proteksyunan ko rin ang kanilang mga karapatan sa maayos na mga serbisyo ng mga establisyimentong ito.* (It's not only about the students buying [space] in these establishments. I also need to protect their rights in these establishment's services.) Then, my third point is more involvement in the Task Force Safe School. *Kasi sa La Salle, paglabas mo, minsan nga lalo na 'pag trainings namin, minsan wala ng guard. Lalo na ngayon na talagang mainit sa mata ang mga La Salzano sa kuong anong* elements of crime. I do believe that it is also my duty as Vice President for Operations and Communications to be an active member in the Task Force Safe School and more involvement in these coalitions as well and pushing for the information that I've gathered, lobbying it and giving it to massive information to the public, the studentry.



Chichi Tullao

Since my battle cry result is to intensify external alliances [and] to heighten external relations, I will intensify the relationship of the external alliances that we have now with DLSU. I will create a movement wherein our students are represented not only in the University but also in the society. Like in education, the Student's Charter bill is already in the legislation. This can be done by tapping collaborative efforts with our external alliances.

One action that could be done by having this alliance is the NCR or all regions campaign in the Philippines to encourage the youth, especially Lasallians to vote. Through this, we become more competent not only here in the University but also outside. This is important because I want other schools to benchmark what we have done here. Just like Students Rights And Welfare (STraW) it is already benchmarked by UST because of The Union of Catholic Studnet Councils (UCSC). It creates big avenues even outside the University to have a sense of involvement. Also, I drafted the Federation of De La Salle Philippines with Simoun Ferrer, which was lobbied and approved by the Legislative Assembly (S.Y 2006-2007).

I also want other schools to benchmark the Zero Styro program and the One Million Trees that De La Salle Philippines is actually doing. I will also continue the Eco-Camp and elevate its implementation because right now, it is just on the process and ideas, but the implementation is not yet done. Therefore, especially with the upcoming 2010 elections, we will fight for [the] role of youth through the youth movement; we will intensify our representation.

Executive Secretary

Q How will you balance the role of SC in nation building and internal relations in the SC?



Mae Ong

Balancing both national and internal issues is feasible but it takes proper management to do both efficiently and with quality. One of the biggest issues that I think the students should be concerned about is the upcoming 2010 national elections. If ever I get elected as the Executive Secretary, I will maximize the human resource in the SC by mobilizing the officers. Those in the position have more power to promote awareness among Lasallians. I think more than mere informing them about the list of Presidentiables, it is important they should be made aware of more important matters that are crucial in the elections. Take the case of the platform of the candidates. By maximizing this human resource, promoting awareness among 12,000 Lasallians would be possible. As your Executive Secretary, it is my job to monitor these SC officers and to assure the 12,000 Lasallians that they deserve quality student services from their officers. After all, we all deserve a student centered, student council.



Cabe Aquino

In order to reinforce the internal efficiency of the SC, I plan to take over the Officer's Monitoring Board that was originally from the Office of the President. Usually, OMB holds year-end evaluation of the officers. What I plan to do is to make it term-end so that the officers would be aware of their performance as well as their strengths and weakness at the end of each term. This is for them to improve their services for the student body. It will cover all SC officers to ensure an effective student government. Aside from this, I plan to make the SC transparent and felt by the student body. This can be done through maximizing Legislative Assembly Watch, Wordpress, and other online file repository systems for students to really feel the SC. For nation building, I plan to transcend the functions of OSEC in utilizing and maximizing the Student Leadership Program (SLP). It will be a venue to provide modules on voter's education. I will invite future presidential candidates and senators to breed students for nation building because I really believe that the OSEC, as the human resource arm of the SC, would not only breed SC leaders but also leaders who are critical and aware and emancipated enough for this coming 2010 national elections to move towards nation building.

Treasurer

Q How do you expect your research regarding the Comprehensive Price Review (CPR) to influence the administration?



Pierre Lim

I will really push for lower prices here in the school and will try to make the administration understand that even the students face a crisis. For example, canteen prices should be subsidized or lowered as it is so obvious that the prices are not standardized. A good example would be the price of bottled C2 in Animo Canteen and Z2. When you inquire their prices, they are different. I hope the administration will understand that we are in the school and yet the prices are different. Why is it that way? I hope that there will be an average price for all the commodities in the University. This does not necessarily mean that it has to be a very low price, it has to be justifiable. Equal. Standardized.



Mikko Hizon

Included in the concept of CPR are the canteen and laboratory fees. What I plan to do is to intensify it and advocate it to the students. This means that the students have to know that CPR exists, that it can be used, and that is one of their rights. My plan for next year is to establish a centralized research committee which will enable me to tap all the competencies of all colleges. I want that in every college, there will be a representative to join the committee.

Even if we are in one university, we are faced with different issues. What the committee will do is to conduct detailed and thorough research on various issues that when presented to the administration, the stand will also be there together with the facts and the numbers. *Ipaglalaban namin hanggang sa kaya naming ipaglaban* (We will fight for it until we can). Even if there are 12,000 students, we only have one vote. What I envision is for the administration to see the relevance of the research, and that this is the stand of the students. Without the students, there will be no De La Salle University. That is why I believe, when they see it, they are going to consider it. There is a need for discussion of issues with the different sectors in the university.

College Assembly Presidents

Q How can you make your college in line with the school motto: Lasallian achievers for God and country?

College of Business and Economics



I believe that a Lasallian achiever is one that receives quality education, and is given good professors and good facilities. When we say for God and country, you have to be able to instill in them, the higher purpose of what they are learning. It should not be limited to things that are classroom-based but something that they can see a long-run social relevance. From an economist's point of view, I think they should go beyond the micro perspective, and see how their [future] corporations and companies can address unemployment of increase the Gross Domestic Product of the Philippines. They should see the bigger picture on the learning in school to be able apply it once they graduate towards nation building. When you are an achiever, you have to see social relevance in what you are learning.



In line with the University's vision of Lasallian achievers for God and country, we will make the students involved in every program and every activity that we will do. We aim to strike a balance between academics and co-curricular activities because we want to produce competent business leaders. I think that through the program, it will be helpful for students to be moulded with competence. It is really about time to create student programs that is quality over quantity. We will ensure that each activity is applicable to the students, and for that to be possible as a Santugon leader, we are consultative. We will have a centralized monitoring board which will serve as a venue for students to raise their concerns, suggestions, and comments through different means. I think that is in line with Lasallian achievers for the country. And for the Lasallian achievers for God, it will be in the project called "adopt-a-community." It's an activity to bring back to the society the things we learned. Each term, there are different communities that we will adopt. Our target is Gawad Kalinga but we are also looking at communities that COSCA has tied-up with. I believe in what a Lasallian Brother said, "the entrepreneurs will save the country." With our learned entrepreneurial skills, we can use this for the benefit of the society.

College of Engineering



Firstly, education since we will ensure an excellent, holistic, and progressive engineering education geared towards the enhancement of the skills and knowledge needed to contribute in community development. If we have a good education, we can contribute in building a strong country through academics. Second, nation building. I envision Lasallian engineers going out the walls of the campus, building communities, and participating in national elections. For me, engineers have to participate in the 2010 elections because they have [the power] to determine who will be the next set of leaders in the country. Engineering plays a big part in the country since we create the systems which make our lives easier. And third, empowering them with their rights. If you know your rights, you can easily fight for it even outside the school since you know what to do. You are aware of it. We are going to coordinate with organizations who engage in youth voter's education similar to the BLSP (Boto Lasalyano Sulong Pilipino). It will really equip us to be Lasallian Engineers, to be real Filipino youth.



We have these two activities namely Engineering Scholar and the Engineering exhibit. The first one is the engineering scholar which does not only recognize students who excel in their field or in academics but are students who really need support from this university. With this project, I believe that I could tap a lot of people who are competent and at the same time who excel in their field. But we are also considering that a lot of Engineering students are not that financially stable. The next one is the Engineering exhibit. This exhibit will showcase students from the graduating batch from the College of Engineering wherein these people have excelled not just in academics, but also in extra-curricular and other fields. For the Engineering exhibit, the people will see that, "*Ab, kaya ko pa pala ma-achieve 'tong goals na 'to*;" through seeing these people *na nakalagay dun sa* Engineering exhibit *na* I could do so much more with myself [by] not just being confined in the four corners of the classroom." (For the Engineering exhibit, the people will see that, "I can actually achieve these goals through seeing these people in the Engineering exhibit, that I could so so much more with myself by not just being confined in the four corners of the classroom.) And the Engineering Scholar should not think that they do not have the capacity to study in a good university. We want to promote that they could achieve more with our help.

College of Liberal Arts



First I want to base it on my platform. So our vision and our mission statement actually is "liberal education towards social transformation". I feel that College of Liberal Arts (CLA) students enrolled in those courses not to make a lot of profit. Let's face it, for Communication Arts students, unless you become a part of a big film company or a big producing company, you will not be able to make a lot of money. But CLA students still choose to get courses that are part of the arts and humanities because we want to change society. Like for myself, I went after Communication Arts, though I had the option of taking Political Economy in UA&P (University of Asia and the Pacific). But I still [chose Communication Arts] because I feel that it is what I do best: it's my passion. And I know that a lot of CLA students have that same passion. Liberal education; CLA is the most diverse college in the University. If you use these diverse disciplines, if you use these courses, if you use these different skills and talents we have, we can mobilize people. We want to heighten their political maturity. Especially since the government in the Philippines right now is very questionable with its credibility. CLA students should realize that their potentials – their diverse potentials – can be maximized in a way that they can use these courses, these different disciplines. I really like to believe that CLA students can mobilize people to spark that dream of every Filipino to have a better Philippines.



In line with the vision of St. La Salle is our vision for the college—which is to be the college at the center of social development and reform. Why social development? There is a need for improvement in the academe; each student is envisioned to have the reason, the right reasons for studying. Whatever your course is, there is something bigger than your major classes and thesis. We are not just studying to graduate. But rather, we would like to cultivate a culture—a college of learners—where each student is empowered within the University. If this is done, it will be natural for them to be productive persons in the country when they graduate. In order to do this, we will campaign for the recognition of theses and works of students. Since CLA is research based, we would like to cultivate a maximized learning environment. We can do this by, first, making people aware of different school services. For example, everybody should know that there is a direct dial-up connection from the DLSU website from your homes. Second, is we would like to have an integrated student life. Of course the academic departments have their own initiative, at the same time the professional organizations or the CLA 10 have their own programs. We can make them in line with the SC and the Arts College Assembly. The goal is to make the students aware and responsible for any activity, such that everyone can be educated and fulfilling our vision to be the center of social development and reform. Collectively, there will be people socially aware, socially responsible, and socially productive upon getting out of the university. Lastly, social involvement should be long-term for those affected; those who are in need and not privileged. We should still be responsible citizens in our country even if we are not all equal in material wealth. We would like to educate our fellow brothers and sisters outside the University especially in the 2010 National Elections where La Salle should spearhead initiatives not only within the University but also in nearby schools in the area. And of course, making people know what is right, who will be the next possible and great leaders who will lead the country beyond 2010. While we are still students, we would like them to be productive here so that they can fully actualize their potentials.

College of Computer Studies



One of my majors thrusts for the school year's General Elections is to bring CCS to a national level—for them to use their strength and intellect when it comes to their specialization for the betterment of the country. They will not only be stuck in CCS alone. The first reform is to use their technological capabilities and specializations to help the country and to heighten their sense of nationalism. Second would be to bring back the CCS pride back by redefining what is computer science as a profession because there was a time that CCS made an impact not only in the university but also in the national level. Although it is not lost, I think we can really do more. Number three thrusts will be supporting the first two since the two programs will not be successful if we will not fight for pro-student services and the justifiable systems in CCS. This is more internal. I think the reason behind our battlecry this election "lakas ng kaalamang pang-teknolohiya" is the strength of progressive Filipinos. By heightening their sense of pride, we can do it all.



As college assembly president, I believe that I can instill the values of being Lasallian achievers for God and Country in the College of Computer Studies by honing and developing our leadership skills and involving ourselves in social responsibilities and strengthening our passion for service. This can be achieved through the proper implementation of our specific plans of action embodied that three aspects of development and make the most of the time of CCS Students. We, as Santugon leaders, have ensured that the activities we have planned for the college do not only serve as a strong foundation for CCS students for them to be holistically developed, but it will also enable them to transcend on what is expected from them and taking it one step further to achieve a higher level of excellence in being Lasallian achievers for God and Country.

College of Science



For me, I think our platform will be in line in being Lasallian Achievers for God and Country because I believe that COS students or the Lasallian Scientists are already intelligent. Although for me, they can increase their ability stepping out of their comfort zones and stepping into social responsibilities. [And this can be done by] partaking in the national elections sa 2010 and through the continuation of the Convention of Future Scientists in which the intelligence and abilities of student and professional scientists are shown.



Basically, *para sa amin*, (for us) our college call *kasi* for the COS is to take a leap of faith. By this we mean that the students of the COS should uphold what is right and at the same time, believe many things can happen in COS. *Isa sa project na inaadvocate namin is yung book drive*. (One of the project we are advocating is the book drive). It is a project where we are going to collect books to be given to public schools. They would need it more *kasi naniniwala kame na kung ano yung blessings na natatanggap natin galing sa Maykapal, pwede natin maibalik dun sa mga mas nangangailangan*. (They would need it more because we believe the blessing we receive from God; we can give back to those in need). For Lasallians to be for their country, *isa sa mga projects namin* (one of our projects) for the COS is yung exhibit of candidates for the 2010 elections *kasi naniniwala kame na* (because we believe that) through this exhibit, *mas malalaman ng mga estudyante kung sino yung mga nararapat na iluklok dun sa* (the students will be more aware of who to place in that) position, and by this we could elect the rightful leaders who are really the right people for the job.

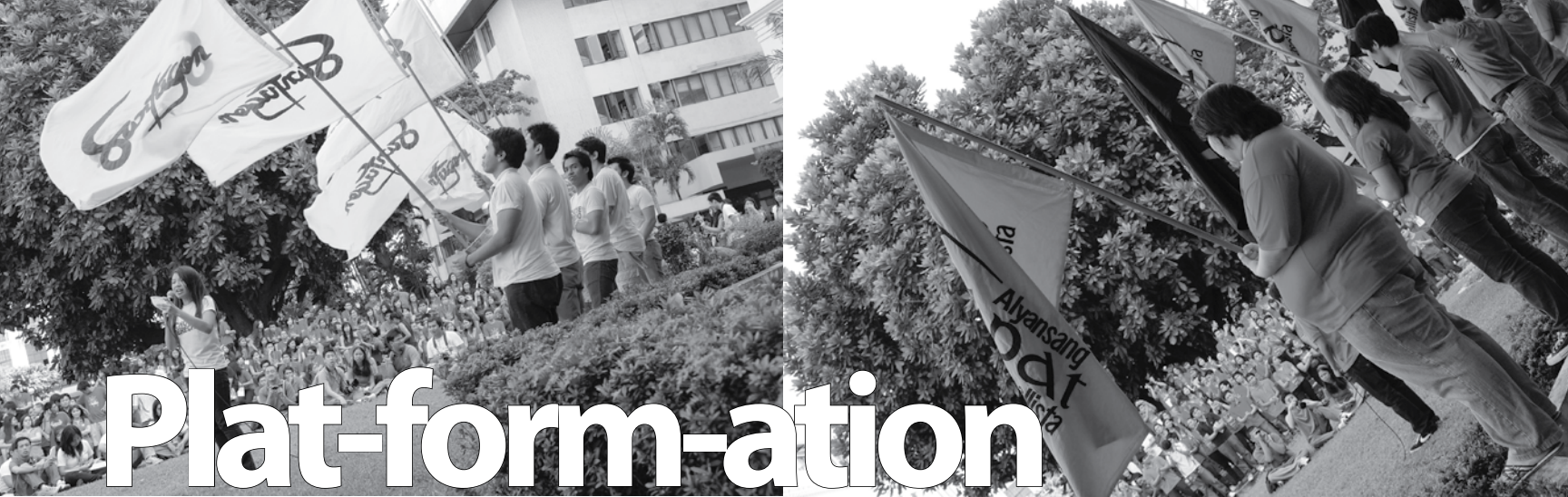
College of Education



Actually, the best way to do that is to fight for a platform. I will make the components of our platform operational. First, we want to further improve the progressive education here in our curriculum because right now, in the College of Education, we have a good curriculum, although there's no avenue for the theoretical application. Meaning, we only apply what we have learned during our practicum year. We actually want to push for a service-oriented curriculum, where we don't just apply what we have learned for ourselves but also use those to cater service for others. That's one of our main platforms. We also want to promote the teacher certificate program, for our teachers. Because right now, there is an issue in different colleges that there is lack of educational background, but in line with our vision of Lasallian achievers for God and country, we should receive the best quality of education here in La Salle. Another is the educational congress where we invite students, faculty, and educators from different universities so we could talk issues like the 5-year college education and early childhood education in the Philippines, which in fact is not required. Then maybe, during the 2010 national elections, our job as teachers is not just to educate then, but we are going to take care of the elections including the ballots. We would also promote the sincerity of the campaign since we facilitate the voting. It is not only us. We do not only educate them. We are going to make sure that the elections are going to be clean.



I think, through our specific plans of action, we have a lot of projects that would tap the potentials of students of the College of Education that would enhance their capacity and ability. We have a lot of projects that is beyond academics. I think in that way, it would make them achievers. And then, for the achievers for the country; since we will become future teachers, it's better that we are not only good in academics but we can also broaden our horizons. For example, we have a lot of talent—we can sing, we can dance, and we can play music instruments. And then for God, we can have projects that can be our achievements; we can offer it to God since He's the one who gave us our talents in the first place. We have RockEd. That would not only feature the popular bands but will also have presentations that are made by the CED students so that they can show their talents. And then proceeds from that concert would be given to a beneficiary. We already talked to Damas Pilipinas, an orphanage. That could be our beneficiary.



By John Daniel Salonga and Julie Ann Yang

Platformation

The two political parties in DLSU never fail each year to come to a clash of ideas that they intend to cater to the students once elected in the Student Council.

This year, Alyansang Tapat sa Lasalista carries as its banner platform, “Lakas ng Nagkakaisang Lasalyanong, Nangunguna sa Pagbuo ng Bansang Progresibo (The Collective Strength of Lasallians at the forefront of building a progressive country).” Meanwhile, Santugon sa Tawag ng Panahon banners a “Student-Centered Student Council.” Through time, both political parties embody their platforms as their service to the students. For the past few years, Tapat has pushed for a “Just and Free Society.” Santugon, however, changes its vision and platform in accordance to what is needed by the students.

Tapat’s Progression

Tapat’s platform progresses every year, explained Tapat President Anil Ratanchandani. In 2004, Tapat’s SC Presidentiable, Jillian Sze, pushed for “Supreme Citizen Empowerment.” During her campaign, she authored the Students’ Code that was lobbied in the Senate as a bill. Sze’s effort with the Students’ Code was continued by Army Padilla in her platform pushing for a “Just and Free Society.” During her tenure, Padilla pushed a number of revisions in the Student Handbook that included the removal of the dress code and attendance policy, which was later recalled by the Council of Deans. The Curriculum Review for the Academic Development of Lasallian Education (CRADLE) was also created as to demand the assessment of the Lasallian education curriculum. Simoun Ferrer adapted the same platform as Padilla’s,

but this time, calling on every Lasallian to be counted in the efforts of the SC. Under Ferrer’s term, the following programs like the Comprehensive Price Review, Centralized Locker System, and Student Council Apprenticeship Program were initiated. Gawad Kalinga (GK) was also institutionalized in the University along with a Green Archer village. The establishment of Committee for National Issues and Concerns (CNIC) was able to garner a multi-sectoral university stand on pressing national issues. Noey Arcinue took the next steps to bring Lasallians to the “forefront of nation building.” Arcinue followed up the GK project and got more involved as the CNIC took bold stands on issues concerning the current Philippine administration. By heightening GK awareness and mission-building, Arcinue was able to tap the students to go beyond the University. This allowed Nicole Villarojo to focus on other issues, particularly the restructuring of the SC by reintroducing the University Student Government (USG).

Santugon’s Responsiveness

In contrast, the vision and platform of Santugon changes every year due to its belief of dynamism. Karyl Factora, Santugon President, said that the party adjusts and responds to the call of the times. This year, Santugon embodied its platform of having a “Student-Centered Student Council,” believing in refocusing the mission and vision of bringing back the SC’s focus on the students. Santugon also noticed that the current Student Council focused much of its efforts on the USG rather than “more important issues,” such as the Monday U-break and Student Handbook Revisions. Factora said that a “Student-Centered Student Council” will prioritize the student’s needs and place their rights and welfare before anything else. She mentioned that when the

Monday U-break issue broke out, the plebiscite for the USG was being conducted. The elected officers were more focused on getting students to vote for the plebiscite. According to Factora, the Office of the Vice President for Academics could have generated and gathered more support against the Monday U-break if other SC elected and appointed officers assisted the OVP-Academic’s efforts.

The Most Important

Based on platforms over the past four years, Tapat has constantly pushed for students to be significant contributors to the country. This somehow mirrors the University’s vision of “Lasallian Achievers for God and Country.” Santugon’s platforms have been more indirect in achieving the University’s vision by prioritizing the rights and interests of the students.

A constant though, in both parties’ platforms in recent years is a sense of urgency to immediately bring about change. This year is no different. Tapat leans more on the giving programs to the students what will advance the students’ capabilities to the community. Meanwhile, Santugon leans more on responding to what the students’ need and delivering what they want through giving them programs and activities that they feel will be felt by the students.

Basing the Vote

Whether both parties’ platforms are responsive or progressive, both try not to mirror the national political scene. Both parties promote platform-based elections that aim for political maturity among students when voting. This requires students to take time to read and understand the ideas contained in the platforms and how it will be beneficial to the students.

PLATFORMS	GE 2004		GE 2005		GE 2006		GE 2007		GE 2008	
	TAPAT  (Platform banner) (SC President candidate)	Supreme Citizen Empowerment Jilian Sze	Just and Free Society Army Padilla	Count Me In: Ipagpatuloy ang Laban! Simoun Ferrer	Forefront of Nation Building towards a Just and Free Society Noey Arcinue	Revolutionizing Nation Building through a Lasallian Leadership Nicole Villarojo				
	SANTUGON  (Platform banner) (SC President candidate)	Proactive Student Involvement Ramon Rubio	Dynamic Lasallian Community Mito Gamboa	Empowered Youth for a Progressive Citizenry Mico Geronimo	Empowered Youth for a Progressive Citizenry Keanne Palatino	Empowered Lasallians for a Progressive Citizenry Agnes De Castro				

Learning from politics

By Nicole Villarojo (SC President S.Y. 2008-2009)

I've spent all five years of my college life in the Student Council. I've succeeded and failed numerous times and in numerous ways. I've encountered people I've admired and people I'd vow I'd never become. I've shed tears and laughed harder than I could imagine.

If you knew me prior to college, you probably would not think I'd be where I am today. The SC made me a tougher, more determined, and a more persevering person. It's challenged me to think out of the box and take that difficult first step to steer people toward a certain direction.

Though I've learned a countless number of things, I'd like to limit it to the top 10 things I've learned as a Student Council Officer (and as a President):

1. **You can't please everyone.** Regardless of how well you deliver, you'll always have at least a handful of critics. You're expected to make stands, but you can never have everyone agree with you. For every pat on the back comes a slap on the cheek; but you learn to take things in stride. Do what you intended to do and smile knowing you did all you could.

2. **Take the risk to make unpopular stands if that's what it means to do the right thing.** You need to have the confidence to stand alone, to make tough decisions and to have the compassion to listen to others. Some people don't set out to be leaders, but they become one because of the quality of their actions and the integrity of their intent.

3. **When people begin reacting to things you have to say, you're probably making a lot of sense, or no sense at all.** Unlike in the classroom, where your personal stands normally remain within the room or on paper, things you say on record as an SC officer are broadcasted to everyone—all of which have varying opinions and interpretations, of course.

4. **There are only 24 hours in a day, use it wisely.** People always ask how an SC officer manages to balance their time between school work and SC work—the answer is quite simple: time management. Idle time is never a good time. If you find yourself with nothing to do, it's either you've forgotten to do something or God is telling you to catch up with lost sleep.

5. **Learn to choose your battles.** It's so easy to feel overburdened with so many issues that you take upon yourself to solve—University, social, political, economic, etc. Truth is you can't solve everything.

6. **Take time for yourself and for the people you love.** The easiest to neglect is yourself and the people you think will always be there for you anyway. Remember that you're a person who can love and should be loved. Fill yourself up first before you give yourself to others.

7. **Don't burn your bridges.** No man is an island, much more a leader. You won't get anywhere if the people you work with and work for stop believing in you.

8. **You make yourself a better leader through other people.** Change a life. Your leadership will be measured by the number of future leaders you've inspired and the number of people whose lives have become better because of you.

9. **Learn to innovate and strategize when you have no resources.** And this shouldn't be limited to financial resources. This includes manpower too.

10. **Be performance-oriented and results-driven.**



PHOTO BY PATTY LAGERA

For the incoming leaders: People mistakenly assume that leaders have everything handed to us on a silver-platter; that we have a one-track mind and that we know exactly what we want and where we're going. What they don't know is that there's a certain amount of soul-searching that's needed before we figure out what we really want in life. So for you to stand in front of a room of people, who have probably pre-judged you and are sceptical about the things that will be coming out of your mouth is a testament that you've found what you want to do in life—to lead. But I suppose I also want you to think long and hard—to discern in other words—if this is really what you want and what you're passionate about. There's a certain stability and “natural” feeling which will help you know you've got it right—a heavy heart is probably a good indicator that there's something better for you out there. Otherwise, stick to this.

The true spirit and essence of leadership is service; the great leader's deepest motivation is a deep desire to help others; his joy is serving others.

Fellow leaders, these are great words to remember because today, more than ever, our country needs moral renewal. Too often we are confronted with news of massive corruption; of unexplained deaths and disappearances of farmers, of students, of journalists, of leaders who have placed their personal agenda above the needs and aspirations of our country and our people. We are fast losing our moral moorings. We therefore have a responsibility to reverse the tide of injustice and mediocrity.



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"People really don't care if politicians attack each other with untrue stories. They figure if you don't want to get hurt, you shouldn't have filed for office. They figure whatever happens to us, our lives will be better than theirs."

- Bill Clinton